

Remarks

Claims 16-23, 26 and 28-35 are pending in the application. Claim 34 has been allowed. Claim 26 has been objected to. Claims 24, 25 and 27 have been canceled hereinabove without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 16-23, 28-33 and 35 stand rejected.

Claims 24, 25 and 27 were rejected as being anticipated by Brodie (PCT Pub. No. WO 9634505). Claims 24-27 were further rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,935 and further in view of Brodie. Claims 24, 25 and 27 have been canceled. Claim 26 was objected to, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 26 has been so rewritten and is allowable.

Claims 16-23 and 28-35 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 16-23, 30-33 and 35 were further rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,935. Accordingly, a terminal disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,002,935 is submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-23, 30-33 and 35 is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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